

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SSC-01 CPR-01 AID-05 HEW-04 NSC-05
SS-15 SP-02 H-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 PM-05 DODE-00
/077 W

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P R 161007Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5822
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4578

PASS TO AID/BANGLADESH DESK AND OFFICE OF POPULATION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BG
SUBJECT: DIVISION OF HEALTH, POPULATION CONTROL, LABOR AND
SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY INTO TWO NEW MINISTRIES

1. THE BDG ANNOUNCED AUGUST 12 THE DIVISION OF THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, POPULATION CONTROL, LAVOR AND
SOCIAL WELFARE INTO TWO MINISTRIES.

A. ONE OF THE NEW MINISTRIES WILL COMBINE HEALTH
AND POPULATION CONTROL AND WILL BE HEADED BY
DR. MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM, WHO HAS BEEN UNTIL NOW ADVISOR
FOR POPULATION CONTROL AND FAMILY PLANNING. AS PART
OF THE REORGANIZATION, SECRETARY OF HEALTH K.A. KHALEQUE
HAS BEEN PLACED BY M.K. ANWAR, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
BANGLADESH BIMAN. DR. ADDUS SATTAR REMAINS SECRETARY
OF POPULATION CONTROL.

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B. THE SECOND MINISTRY WILL BE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT,
LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, HEADED BY COL. (RTD.) M.M.
HAQUE, WHO HAS BEEN UNTIL NOW ADVISOR FOR HEALTH,
LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE. THE SECRETARY OF THE
MINISTRY WILL BE MESBAHUDDIN WHO HAD BEEN SECRETARY
OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE.

2. THE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE REORGANIZATION IS THE COMBINING OF HEALTH AND POPULATION UNDER ONE MINISTRY HEADED BY IBRAHIM. IN THE PAST, THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE FRICTION AND DUPLICATION OF WORK BETWEEN THE TWO DIVISIONS. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF CONTENTION HAD BEEN THE UNWILLINGNESS OF MANY DOCTORS TO IMPLEMENT CLINICAL FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES WITHOUT BEING PAID SEPARATELY BY THE GOVERNMENT. IBRAHIM'S STATUS AS A SCHOLAR AND FORMER TEACHER OF MANY OF THE DOCTORS IN THE HEALTH SERVICES MAY INSPIRE MORE COOPERATION, ALTHOUGH USAID OFFICIALS NOTE THAT IBRAHIM HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN ERRATIC AND UNPREDICTABLE, MAKING DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING OR OFTEN CONTRARY TO THE ADVICE OF HIS TECHNICAL STAFF AND USURPING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND HIS ADMINISTRATORS. IBRAHIM'S TASK MAY BE FACILITATED BY THE NEW HEALTH SECRETARY, ANWAR, WHO WAS KNOWN AT BIMAN AS A FAIRLY ABLE AND PERSONABLE ADMINISTRATOR.

3. LEAVING LABOR RELATED FUNCTIONS IN ONE CONSOLIDATED MINISTRY SHOULD FACILITATE DECISION MAKING AND ENHANCE THE STATUS OF MANPOWER PROGRAMS, WHICH PREVIOUSLY TENDED TO TAKE A BACKSEAT TO POPULATION CONTROL. HAQUE'S EXPERIENCE WILL ADD CONTINUITY TO THE NEW LABOR MINISTRY.

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